

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 IGA-02 EB-08 /088 W
-----272037Z 064654 /43

R 270917Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8644
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONGEN HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USUN NEW YORK 1733

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2065

DEPT FOR EA/VLC AND D/HA FROM RED

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TH, VN, LA
SUBJECT: RED: MCC PROGRAM FOR LPDR

1. THE MEKONG COORDINATING COMMITTEE (MCC) HAS JUST COMPLETED AN EXTENSIVE HISTORY ENTITLED THE LAO PDR AND THE MEKONG PROJECT (SEP COVER TO ACTION ADDRESSEES). THIS WAS COMPLETED AS AN UP-TO-DATE ORIENTATION FOR THE CURRENT POLICY MAKERS, BUT ALSO AS A PRELUDE TO A RATHER AMBITIOUS PROGRAM FOR 1977.

2. LDPR IS QUOTE LOOSENING UP UNQUOTE ON MCC PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND DESIGN OF NEW ACTIVITIES:

A. MCC RECEIVED RADIO MESSAGE FROM VIENTIANE ON JANUARY 25 AUTHORIZING EXPATRIATE PERSONNEL, STATIONED EITHER IN VIENTIANE OR BANGKOK, TO TRAVEL ANYWHERE ON PROJECT ACTIVITY WITH PRIOR COORDINATION AND
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PROVIDING THEY RETURN TO VIENTIANE BEFORE NIGHT FALL. SUCH TRAVEL HERETOFORE HAS BEEN LIMITED TO LAO NATIONALS, EXCEPT IN THE VIENTIANE PLAIN.

B. SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN ASKED TO PREPARE PROJECT PROPOSALS OF ONE, THREE AND FIVE-YEAR DURATION FOR INCORPORATION INTO LPDR PORTFOLIO FOR NEGOTIATION

WITH VARIOUS DONORS.

C. ON FEBRUARY 1, A TEAM OF FOUR MCC EXPERTS WILL VISIT LPDR TO DEVELOP DETAILS OF A PILOT FISH FARM PROJECT.

D. ON FEBRUARY 15, A SHIPYARD DESIGN EXPERT WILL VISIT LPDR TO FOLLOW-UP ON AN INQUIRY FOR DESIGN WORK ON A SHIPBUILDING AND FLEET REHABILITATION FACILITY. OSTENSIBLY THIS WILL BE LOCATED IN THE VIENTIANE AREA AND WHAT THE LAO HOPE TO DO IS REPLICATE THE BRITISH-FUNDED FACILITY LOCATED IN NONGKHAI, THAILAND. IN MUCH LONGER RANGE TERMS, THE OBJECTIVE IS CONSTRUCTION OF VESSELS TO MOVE IN MEKONG WATERS BETWEEN VIENTIANE AND SAVANNAKHET, WHICH THE LPDR ULTIMATELY HOPES WILL BE LINKED BY SURFACE VIA ROUTE 9 TO DANANG, SRV, THEREBY PROVIDING EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVE TO IMPORTING/EXPORTING THROUGH THAILAND.

3. THE 1977 PROGRAM FOCUSES ESSENTIALLY ON SMALL PROJECTS TO PRODUCE IMMEDIATE RESULTS IN A LOCALIZED ENVIRONMENT. THE LPDR HAS NOT LOST SIGHT, HOWEVER, OF THE ULTIMATE VALUE OF MAINSTREAM PROJECTS AND SOME LONGER RANGE PLANNING, WITNESS THE SHIPBUILDING PROJECT. LPDR IS STILL CONCERNED WITH FURTHER EXTENSION OF NGAM NGUM BEYOND PHASE II BECAUSE THE \$1.0 MILLION IN FX FROM RTG REPRESENTS A FINE NEST EGG (ALL THE OUTPUT FROM PHASE II WILL ALSO GO TO RTG AT ALREADY AGREED RATES). BEYOND CONFIDENTIAL

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PHASE II, HOWEVER, THE LPDR IS NOW WORKING TOWARD ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION OF NECESSARY HYDROGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT RELATED TO EVENTUAL DEVELOPMENT OF NGAM NGUM IV WITH A 250 MEGAWATT OUTPUT.

4. IN THE SMALL PROJECTS CLASS, MCC HAS JUST PROVIDED AUSTRALIANS WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF SEVEN SMALL IRRIGATION PROJECTS COMPLETED ON THE SE BONG FAI. LPDR HAS ADDITIONAL SUCH PROJECTS WHICH IT HOPES GOA WILL ALSO FINANCE. MOREOVER, A NAM THEUN RECONNAISSANCE PROPOSAL HAS BEEN DEVELOPED, SUBMITTED TO AND APPROVED BY FRANCE AND IS NOW AWAITING THE GO-AHEAD FOR IMPLEMENTATION. TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH LOCALIZED ACTIVITIES, LPDR HAS ASKED FOR AND MCC HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE A FULL-TIME FISH BREEDING EXPERT (PROBABLY AN INDIAN) AND THREE PART-TIME PROJECT DESIGNERS FOR SMALL IRRIGATION STRUCTURES. PART OF LPDR CONCENTRATION ON LIMITED AREA PROJECTS IS TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE OF LOCAL MANAGEMENT

AND IMPLEMENTATION PERSONNEL (COMMENT: MCC STAFF TELLS US THAT IN ALMOST EVERY OFFICE THEY VISIT IN VIENTIANE ONE OR MORE FORMER MCC CADRE ARE WORKING ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PLANNING, DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION ON NATURAL LEVEL).

5. DETAILS NOW AVAILABLE ON 1977 PROGRAM FOLLOW:

PROJECT	TOTAL COST (US\$ 000)	ANNUAL COST (US\$ 000)
NAM THEUN RECON.	1,000	30
UPPER NGAM NGUM RECON.	400	30
SMALL WATER RES. PROJ		100
NON-BASIN PROJ. INVENTORY		8
NGAM NGUM, PHASE II	40,000	84
MAIN CHANNEL WORK	510	48
NEW PORTS/BANK PROTECTION	490	24

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SHIPYARD	1,000	33
FLEET REHAB	2,000	33
CASIER SUD PIONEER PROJ.	1,800	33
VIENTIANE PLAIN PROJ.	200	40
SAVANNAKHET PLAIN WATER CONTROL PROJ	100	33
LAND STUDIES		21
FISH BREEDING STATION	116	64
PILOT FISH FARM	600	36
NGAM NGUM FISHERY	1,400	21
NGAM NGUM RESETTLEMENT	1,170	100

MCC CONSIDERS 1977 PROGRAM VERY REALISTIC AND WELL WITHIN CAPABILITY OF LPDR. VARIOUS DONORS, THE NETHERLANDS, FRANCE, AUSTRALIA, ARE ALREADY COMMITTED TO SOME PROJECTS; OTHER DONORS CAN EXPECT TO BE APPROACHED BILATERALLY BY LPDR ON OTHERS.

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
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TAGS: PFOR, EAID, TH, VN, LA
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